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July 23, 1992

Mr. Renagi Lohia, Chair
Special Committee of 24
UN Secretariat
Room 3341
United Nations,
New York, NY 10017

Dear Sir and Respected Members of the Committee,

Greetings. My name is Ray Funk and I am the Member of Parliament for Prince Albert/Churchill River in northern Saskatchewan. I am also a member of the Canadian branch of Parliamentarians for East Timor.

Parliamentarians for East Timor (P.E.T.) is an all-party group seeking to end the brutal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia.

I have been following the story of East Timor quite closely for several years now. I presented our position to this committee two years ago, in August of 1990. P.E.T. has sent a representative to the Committee for Decolonization since 1989. Unfortunately, because of previous commitments, we were unable to send a member to New York this year. I am therefore asking Li-lien Gibbons of the East Timor Alert Network to present this letter to you.

We have recently called on our government to end economic and military aid to Indonesia. We were shocked and angered by the cold-blooded murder of Timorese youth at the Santa Cruz cemetery on November 12 last year. We grieved upon hearing news of torture and disappearance of many more people in the weeks following the massacre.

We believe strongly that the human rights situation in East Timor has deteriorated to an all-time low. Repression has escalated to the point that freedom of speech is virtually non-existent. The Indonesian government has tried to silence voices that cry out for freedom and democracy with showers of bullets or lengthy prison terms.

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The Indonesian military occupation of East Timor is marked by a legacy of rape, murder, torture, theft and starvation. All calls on the Indonesian government to end its genocide and to respect United Nations resolutions with regard to East Timor have been met with either silence or derision.

The Canadian branch of P.E.T. joins with members of the U.S. Congress and the Japanese Diet urging the United Nations to do the following:

* Release the report of Dr. Amos Wako, Boutros-Ghali's personal envoy to Indonesia and East Timor.

* Establish a U.N. presence in East Timor to monitor the human rights situation, particularly in light of credible reports of pervasive terror on the island.

* Urge the Indonesian Government to release East Timorese prisoners and facilitate access to East Timor, as agreed to under the consensus decision of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

* Initiate and facilitate negotiations, involving Portugal, Indonesia and representatives of the East Timorese, on the status of East Timor.

* Take steps to ensure self-determination for the people of East Timor under U.N. auspices, as guaranteed by General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

In view of the fact that time is quickly running out for the people of East Timor, we urge this committee to make the strongest possible recommendations to the Secretary-General in order to expedite the decolonization of East Timor.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ray Funk.

Ray Funk, M.P.
Prince Albert/Churchill River
for Parliamentarians for East Timor
(Canada)

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